REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending as of the action mailed on September 21, 2006.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18 and 20 are being amended. Claims 5-8, 13 and 19 are being cancelled. No new matter has been added.

Reexamination and reconsideration of the action are requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Drawings

The specification has been amended to describe the figure properly by removing the erroneous reference to the reference sign "1102".

Section 101 Rejections

Claims 10-19 were rejected as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In particular, the examiner asserted that the claims 10-14 recite non-statutory subject matter because the claims "are not limited to tangible embodiments". The examiner asserts that in view of paragraph [0172], lines 5-6, "'an information carrier' is not limited to tangible embodiments, instead being defined in intangible embodiments (e.g., 'a propagated signal')." The applicant respectfully submits that, as a matter of elementary physics, the rejection is insupportable. Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution, the applicant has amended the preamble of claim 10 to moot the issue.

Claims 15-19 were rejected because they recite a system for maintaining a database. The examiner asserted that "the claims are absent an explicit and deliberate definition in the specification that the system for maintaining a database includes the underlying hardware." Claim 15 has been amended to recite "a memory device."

Applicant respectfully submits that the § 101 rejections have been overcome.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-3, 8-11, 13-17, and 19-20 were rejected as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,134,552 ("Fritz").

<u>Claim 1</u>. The examiner rejected claim 1 stating that Fritz discloses a method for "determining a suitable PHIO when a LOIO is response to a request (column 2, lines 52-53)." The portions of Fritz relied on by the examiner state that the system "allows for the retrieval of the most appropriate physical object associated with [a] logical object on the basis of the context." *See* column 2, lines 52-54.

None of the cited portions of Fritz, however, disclose generating a derived context that is generated by successive application to an entry context of one or more maps, as recited by amended claim 1.

The applicant submits that claim 1 as well as claims 2-4 and 9, which depend from claim 1, are in condition for allowance.

Claim 10 is a claim directed to a computer program product with limitations corresponding to those of claim 1. Claim 10 and its dependent claims are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons given above in reference to claim 1.

Claim 15 is a claim directed to a system with limitations corresponding to those of claim 1. Claim 15 and its dependent claims are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons given above in reference to claim 1.

Section 103

Claims 4-7, 12, and 18 were rejected as allegedly unpatentable over Fritz in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication US2002/0083093 ("Goodisman").

Claims 5-7 have been cancelled.

<u>Claim 4</u>. The examiner rejected claim 4 stating that:

> "[Although] Fritz does not disclose generating a sequence of context from the entry context; [or] determining a match of the entry context to one of the contexts in the sequence; . . . Goodisman teaches a method for linking between objects wherein a pattern matches obtains context information, performance sequence analysis to a context, and determines a context ("a

name") that is relevant to the given context ("a particular user") (paragraph
[0055], lines 30-41)"

The applicant disagrees. The cited portions of Goodisman describe a "pattern matcher
[that] can include linguistic, keyword proximity, and word sequence analysis. Accordingly, the
pattern matcher 76 can identify names, locations, telephone numbers, social security numbers,
[and so on] . . . to determine whether a name, for example, is relevant to a particular user and
henceforth, the name, as an object, should be linked to other information related to the name."
See paragraph [0005], lines 34 -43. In other words, Goodisman describes a method that relies on
features of a document's content as detected by a pattern matcher using linguistic, keyword and
word sequence technology. The cited portions of Goodisman do not disclose applying a map to
an entry context to generate a derived context, as recited in amended claim 1. Furthermore,
Goodisman does not disclose "generating a sequence of contexts," as recited in claim 4. Claim 4
has been amended make clear that "each context in the sequence of contexts [specifies] a
respective value for each of the one or more attributes".

Claims 12 and 18 have limitations corresponding to those of claim 4.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the rejection of claims 4, 12, and 18 should be
withdrawn.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the applicant submits that all the claims are in condition for
allowance.

By responding in the foregoing remarks only to particular positions taken by the
examiner, the applicant does not acquiesce with other positions that have not been explicitly
addressed. In addition, the applicant's arguments for the patentability of a claim should not be
understood as implying that no other reasons for the patentability of that claim exist.
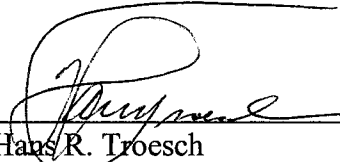
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Respectfully submitted,

Date: _17 Nov 06_

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